

CITY OF SHEFFIELD.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

THOMAS CHETWOOD, M.B. LOND., D.P.H.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1916.

[NINTH YEAR.]

SHEFFIELD

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MEDICAL STAFF.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

THOMAS CHETWOOD, M.B. Lond., D.P.H. Oxford.

ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS.

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*Albert E. Naish, M.A., M.B., B.C. Cantab, M.R.C.P.

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IN CHARGE OF SKIN DEPARTMENT.

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OPHTHALMIC SURGEONS.

Herbert Emmerson, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Percival J. Hay, M.D. Edin.

AURAL SURGEON.

§George Wilkinson, B.A., M.B., B.C. Cantab, F.R.C.S. Eng.

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

John Rennie, M.D. Aberdeen.

SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEONS.

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NURSING STAFF.

*Mary E. Mee (Chief Nurse).

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†Clara Barratt.

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Florence M. Gibson.

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†Nellie Hawley.

*Ethel Irving.

*Ada E. Judge.

*Jessie Lee.

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DENTAL ATTENDANTS.

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Reginald E. North (Principal Clerk). *†Alfred C. Anderson.

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†Fredk. M. Crossland.

*Frank Crookes.

†Nora Hall.

*Charles E. Moulson.

†Ida Johnston.

*Harry Dodd.

†Ida Tomlinson.

*Henry Nicholson.

†Doris Rose.

*Alec C. Morris.

†Percy W. Daff.

George E. Wilson.

†Lucretia S. Mason.

* Absent on Military or Naval Service. † Temporary appointment.

§ On Military Service but not absent from duty.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1916.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS AT SCHOOLS—

No. of children examined in School—Routine Inspection	.. .. .. .. ..	15,092
Elementary Schools	491	
Central Secondary Schools	187	
Special Schools for Mentally Defective	253	
No. of children examined in School—Selected cases	11,094	
" " " " Following up	6,876	
" " " " Special Visits	5,438	

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS AT SCHOOL CLINIC—

No. of cases	6,238	
No. of attendances for examination	17,624	
No. of examinations re Exemption from School	3,038	

SCHOOL NURSES—

No. of children examined in Schools	78,060	
No. of visits to homes of parents	7,667	
No. of minor dressings at Clinic and Schools	2,109	

DENTAL DEPARTMENT—

No. of children inspected by the School Dentists at Schools	7,060	
" " " " at Clinic	1,381	
No. of children treated	3,687	

X-RAY AND SKIN DEPARTMENT—

No. of cases	5,163	
No. of children treated with X-Rays	332	
No. of children treated with Ointment	4,341	
No. of attendances	19,731	

OPHTHALMIC DEPARTMENT—

No. of children treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeons	3,097	
No. of attendances	9,470	
No. of cases dressed by Nurses for Sore Eyes, etc.	1,007	
No. of attendances	28,602	

AURAL DEPARTMENT—

Deafness and Discharging Ears—No. of cases treated by Aural Surgeon	762	
No. of attendances	2,615	
No. of cases dressed by Nurses	828	
No. of attendances	11,510	

SCHOOL TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—

No. of cases	1,068	
No. of attendances	5,281	

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES OF CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC

105,048

CITY OF SHEFFIELD,

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Population (estimated)	476,012	
Area	24,886 acres.	
Density of Population	19.1 persons per acre.	
Rateable Value	£2,094,846	
Education Rate (including Provision of Meals)	25.7d.	
Penny Rate produces	£8,418	
No. of Schools (including Special Schools)	114	
No. of Departments	273	
Accommodation	85,281	
No. on Rolls	84,735	
Average Attendance	69,941	

CITY OF SHEFFIELD.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

THOMAS CHETWOOD, M.B. Lond., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1916.

The Board of Education suggest that the Reports of School Medical Officers for 1916 should be framed generally on the lines laid down in a circular which was issued in December, 1915. They will accept short reports of a comparatively simple nature, indicating the character and volume of the work done and the results of following up and treatment. Certain tables are to be included as well as essential information concerning the various activities of the School Medical Service. In the preparation of this Report an attempt has been made to give effect to these recommendations.

STAFF.

At the end of 1916 one of the Assistant School Medical Officers (Dr. A. C. Greenep) left to join the staff of a Base Hospital in the Midlands. Four whole-time Assistant Medical Officers, all of whom are ineligible for general military service, with the help of two part-time Officers, are now carrying on the service, which has been still further curtailed and consists only of the work, the maintenance of which is regarded by the Board as essential.

Specialist officers are still engaged in the treatment of defects of the eye and ear and the X-Ray treatment of Ringworm.

The arrangements with the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, by which the services of five nurses were placed at the disposal of the Education Committee, came to an end on the 31st January, 1917. Fourteen nurses are now appointed directly by the Education Committee. Five of the permanent Nursing Staff are at present absent on military duty, and their places have been filled temporarily.

PREMISES.

The work at the School Clinic at Hawley Street has again increased very rapidly, and the want of adequate waiting-room space has been felt even more acutely than before.

Inspection or treatment is being carried on every day—morning, afternoon, and evening. On two evenings there are three departments at work after school hours, and on the other three evenings two departments.

The total number of attendances made by school children during the year was 105,048, an advance of 26,018 on the figures for 1915, and 46,051 on those for 1914, when the numbers were 79,030 and 58,997 respectively. To relieve the congestion and over-crowding, the Committee decided to open a Branch Clinic in Attercliffe as an experiment. Two classrooms and two smaller rooms in a new school in that district, the completion of which was postponed in 1914, have been adapted for temporary use and fitted with the necessary equipment. The sanction of the Board of Education was obtained and the Maltby Street Clinic was opened on the 8th January, 1917, to serve as a centre both for inspection and treatment for the children attending 22 schools in the neighbourhood.

TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC

for the past five years.

1912	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,200
1913	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,719
1914	..	..	..	..	..	..	58,997
1915	..	..	..	..	..	..	79,030
1916	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>105,048</u>

GRANTS.

The Board of Education made a grant of £3,179 10s. 7d., equal to 50 per cent. of the total expenditure for the previous year, and again the maximum payable under the Regulations.

TABLE I.

Number of Children inspected 1st January, 1916, to 31st December, 1916.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

AGE.	ENTRANTS.					INTER-MEDIATE GROUP.				LEAVERS.			GRAND TOTAL.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys ..	—	1	3	2	25	31	2,559	2,356	1,026	13	—	3,395	5,985
Girls ..	—	2	3	9	32	46	2,470	2,297	1,377	6	—	3,680	6,196
TOTALS	—	3	6	11	57	77	5,029	4,653	2,403	19	—	7,075	12,181

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	1,451	5,738
GIRLS	1,460	5,356
TOTALS	2,911	11,094
			6,876

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

During the early months of the War there was no suspension of the Routine Medical Inspection in the elementary schools, as after considerable effort it was found possible to provide substitutes for those members of the staff who left for military service.

Later on, however, some curtailment was unavoidable, and in the summer of 1915 the Routine Inspection of the "entrants" group was stopped. During the greater part of 1916 the inspection of the Intermediate and Leaver groups only was continued, and the figures in this section refer to those two groups, with the addition of a few others brought to the doctor's notice by the Teachers.

15,092 children were examined and 3,158 letters were sent to parents directing their attention to defects which, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, required observation or treatment—a percentage of 20·9 (see Table II., p. 10).

At the end of 1916 the Routine Inspection of *all* groups was discontinued and in 1917, in its place, provision is being made for the examination of children of all ages who appear to be ailing, and also for the maintenance of the treatment work carried out under the Education Committee's scheme.

Nurses are to visit the schools regularly and as frequently as possible to select, with the help of the teachers, children who appear to be ailing. Arrangements have also been made for the School Medical Officers subsequently to visit the school about twice in the year and to examine such children and any others that they may themselves select at the time. Head Teachers will be notified of the Doctor's intended visit whenever it is found possible to do so.

The Nurses will continue their surveys of the children in the schools under the Cleanliness Scheme, and may combine this work with the selection of ailing children.

When children are found on examination to require treatment, letters will be sent to the parents and the cases followed up in the usual way. Other children requiring re-examination are also followed up. The major part of the Medical Officer's share in this re-examination must be done at school, as the limited accommodation at the Clinics will not be equal to any great increase in the number of inspections there. It is already apparent that the

inspection under this modified scheme is sufficiently searching to disclose a greater number of children who are in need of treatment than the Routine Inspection, as the whole of the time and attention of the Medical Staff is given up to those who are apparently ailing.

Clothing and Footgear.

No detailed statistics have been compiled this year, but the general impression gathered from the year's work is that there has been, at any rate, no marked improvement in either case. The abundance of employment and the higher wages earned have been counterbalanced, in part at least, by the increased cost of living.

Cleanliness.

It is difficult, however, to get rid of the further impression that the employment of married women in industrial occupations has been distinctly detrimental to the interests of the children, and the resultant relaxation of parental care and control has been evident in many directions. One fact may be mentioned in this connection. The number of children with "sore heads" seen at the School Clinic has been much larger, and there is no doubt that in many of them, owing to want of adequate attention in the home, the condition has persisted for an undue length of time. The condition is due to want of cleanliness, and no medical or skilled treatment is required to cure it.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mentally Defective	116	..	71	.. 187
Physically Defective	87	..	90	.. 177
Myope School	21	..	29	.. 50
Open Air School	13	..	13	.. 26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	237	..	203	.. 440
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

		No. Examined.
Boys .. .. .. .. ..	..	182
Girls .. .. .. .. ..	..	309
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		491
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Routine Medical Inspection of the scholars in these schools has also been temporarily suspended.

ABBREVIATED FORM OF TABLE II.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	40	7	23	3
Uncleanliness—				
Head	4	1	4	1
Body	2	1	—	—
Skin—				
Ringworm—				
Head	11	3	14	2
Body	4	1	—	—
Scabies	92	3	18	1
Impetigo	25	3	58	—
Other disease	34	5	70	3
Eye—				
Defective Vision and Squint	1272	109	1268	45
External Eye Disease ..	138	8	249	11
Ear—				
Defective Hearing	202	30	298	14
Ear Disease	160	13	156	6
Teeth—Dental Disease	1073	20	197	2
Nose and Throat—				
Enlarged Tonsils	520	45	134	13
Adenoids	202	31	307	76
Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	52	8	83	4
Defective Speech	1	—	9	10
Heart and Circulation—				
Heart Disease—				
Organic	50	55	12	7
Functional	28	22	3	—
Anaemia	108	34	260	12
Lungs—				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
Definite	3	—	—	—
Suspected	49	14	10	—
Chronic Bronchitis	23	9	3	1
Other Disease	60	19	14	5
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy	9	5	10	3
Chorea	6	4	3	2
Other Disease	1	2	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
Glands	26	10	26	5
Bones and Joints	7	1	4	2
Other Forms	3	1	1	—
Rickets	31	3	92	2
Deformities	22	23	25	4
Other Defects or Diseases	270	97	385	64



CITY OF SHEFFIELD.

Education Committee.

With
the School Medical Officers
Compliments.

School Medical Department.
123. Hawley Street.



SELECTED CASES.

The examination of 11,094 selected cases disclosed defects in 2,656 children. Letters were sent to the parents and the cases were followed up and re-examined by the Medical Officer as in the previous year. The conditions found are summarised in Table II.

FOLLOWING UP.

Re-Examinations.

6,876 children were re-examined and 3,491 second letters sent. The Nurses, as before, visited parents who failed to respond to the second letter.

SPECIAL VISITS TO SCHOOLS.

The number of children examined by the Doctors visiting schools to investigate outbreaks of infectious disease and for purposes other than the ordinary medical inspection was 5,438.

PROVISION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The arrangements already made by the authority for the treatment of defects not receiving treatment by private practitioners or at the Hospitals have been maintained, with the addition of an evening Clinic for the treatment of toothache and other urgent dental cases which are not included under the existing scheme. This additional clinic is carried on every evening by the School Dentists, and does not in any way interrupt their regular work. The Dental Department at the Hospital has been closed, and shortage of staff in other Hospital departments, among other causes, has led to a marked increase again this year in the treatment work at the School Clinic.

The treatment of minor ailments by the Nurses is carried out without a break through the School holidays. This ensures regular treatment in cases which are not fit to be discharged at the end of the School term, and which would certainly relapse if left untreated. Although the attendance is naturally not so good as at other times, it has been sufficiently good to justify this step.

During 1916, the School Medical Officer has also made arrangements by which the prompt examination of boys applying for exemption from School under the relaxed Bye-Laws has been secured during the holidays.

TABLE IV.
TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.		Percentage of defects treated.	
	From previous year.	New.	Total.	No. of defects treated.	Remedied	Improved	Unchanged.	Promised	Refused.	
Clothing	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	100·0
Footgear	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of head	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	80·0
Cleanliness of body	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nutrition	29	62	91	13	67	6	—	—	—	73·6
Nose and throat	617	1121	1738	226	1170	337	433	400	37	67·3
External eye disease	179	281	460	51	400	178	165	57	—	86·9
Ear disease	149	249	398	42	346	73	239	34	1	86·9
Teeth	597	979	1576	166	1086	270	493	323	19	68·9
Heart and circulation	98	189	287	56	218	12	133	73	13	76·0
Lungs	68	123	191	40	145	18	95	32	6	75·9
Nervous system	14	15	29	9	20	1	11	8	—	69·0
Skin	126	233	359	43	312	207	86	19	4	—
Rickets	61	86	147	18	103	6	38	59	23	70·0
Deformities	25	28	53	8	40	2	17	21	5	—
Tuberculosis—										75·5
Non-pulmonary	8	12	20	—	18	—	13	5	2	90·0
Speech	4	16	20	4	14	—	3	11	2	70·0
Mental condition	18	71	89	24	55	—	8	47	—	61·8
Vision and squint	1463	1761	3224	328	2453	875	984	594	426	76·1
Hearing	216	347	563	69	430	69	264	97	62	76·4
Miscellaneous	213	635	848	173	636	96	375	165	36	75·0
Totals ..	3885	6216	10101	1281	7518	2153	3402	1963	1219	83
										74·4

The number of Hospital " Recommends " granted to parents for the treatment of conditions not dealt with by the School Medical Department has fallen to 223.

Side by side with the growth of the facilities provided in the School Clinic, the steady increase in the proportion of children obtaining treatment is being maintained. The establishment of Branch Clinics in convenient positions is likely to still further reduce the number of defects remaining untreated.

YEAR.	Percentage of Children treated.						
1908	34·0
1909	51·0
1910	52·8
1911	53·9
1912	63·5
1913	66·0
1914	66·8
1915	69·4
1916	74·4

Shower Baths.

The shower baths at three of the Council Schools have been working regularly throughout the year, and an average of about 1,000 baths a week are given at each school. The attendance of children at the baths is counted in the same way as attendance at school, and may be regarded as a lesson in the education of dirty children who might otherwise fail to learn and appreciate the value of cleanliness.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

INSPECTION CLINIC.

This is a most necessary part of the School Medical Officers' work. By this means children who are absent from school are kept under observation and an opportunity is afforded of giving advice to the parents individually. Under the present conditions, parents will not be invited to the inspections at school, and the doctors and parents will only come into contact at the Clinics.

Re-inspection of children with defects discovered during inspection at the School is continued during the course of the treatment until the ailment has been dealt with to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer. No case is allowed to lapse until this has been done.

Head Teachers and School Attendance Officers also receive regular notices as to the child's fitness or unfitness for attendance at School.

The total attendances in 1916 again show an increase, being 17,624, compared with 13,233 in the previous year. A further increase is to be expected in 1917 as a result of the suspension of Routine Medical Inspection, and three sessions each week will be required for this branch of the work instead of two.

Several of the minor ailments here included, e.g., Conjunctivitis, Blepharitis, and Discharging Ears, receive treatment by the Nurses under the direction of the School Medical Officer, in addition to the cases under the charge of the Specialist Officers.

Condition.	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendances.	Condition.	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendances.
Eye—			Debility	373	1299
Defective Vision ..	680	1150	Hæmophilia ..	4	10
Squint	162	260	Nervous System—		
Blepharitis	536	3083	Chorea	102	432
Conjunctivitis	529	1873	Epilepsy (Major or Minor)	123	441
Corneal Ulcer and Opacities	39	115	Other Disease	30	101
Other conditions ..	55	130	Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)—		
Ear—			Glands	58	168
Deafness ..	185	308	Spine	46	81
Discharging Ears ..	611	1331	Wrist	2	3
Deaf Mute	9	11	Hip	50	101
Mastoid Disease ..	7	15	Knee	23	47
Aural Obstruction ..	2	3	Ankle	6	8
Nose and Throat—			Peritoneum	31	96
Enlarged Tonsils ..	86	192	Kidney	3	4
Adenoids	84	191	Skin	7	22
Tonsils and Adenoids ..	32	68	Other	11	39
Tonsillitis	41	129	Rickets	99	250
Pharyngitis	4	11	Lateral Curvature ..	18	56
Laryngitis	5	15	Spinal Disease, Deformities, Old Injuries, etc.	121	264
Nasal Discharge ..	4	11	Rheumatism	57	210
Nasal Obstruction ..	9	24	Still's Disease	4	6
Polypus	1	1	Disorders of the Digestive System	85	298
Goitre	16	44	Hernia	11	23
Bad Teeth	191	335	Disorders of the Genito-Urinary System ..	40	135
Enlarged Glands ..	114	316	Incontinence	36	134
Speech Defects	9	23	Minor Surgical Cases ..	93	209
Mental Defects—			Various Skin Conditions ..	4	6
Dull and Backward ..	4	8	Infectious Diseases ..	39	96
Feeble-minded ..	59	87	Developmental Defects ..	8	11
Idiot and Imbecile ..	6	7	Other Defects	5	8
Heart and Circulation—			No appreciable Defect or Disease	149	224
Anæmia	409	1009	Total number of Cases ..	..	6,238
Organic Disease ..	144	457	Total number of Attendances ..	..	17,624
Functional Disease ..	5	18			
Lungs—					
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh ..	399	1213			
Tuberculosis	17	41			
Doubtful Tuberculosis ..	96	235			
Pleurisy, Pleural Effusion and Empyema ..	6	16			
Malnutrition	44	112			

TREATMENT CLINIC.

Some observations on the arrangements for the treatment of defects in the five departments of the Treatment Clinic, indicating the number of children treated and the changes found necessary during the year, are required, and the necessary information is given as briefly as possible.

(1) DENTAL DEPARTMENT.

The revised scheme adopted in 1915 has been retained and has proved very satisfactory. It provides *inter alia* for the regular re-inspection of every child inspected.

After the inspection at school letters are sent to the parents, and nearly 75 per cent. of those who replied accepted the offer of the School Dentists to carry out the necessary treatment, while 16 per cent. promised to have the children attended to privately—an indication that an increasing number of parents are recognising the value of dental treatment.

In many cases, even in very young children, preliminary extractions are necessary before conservative work can be undertaken with any reasonable hope of successs.

Major anaesthetics were administered in 184 cases by the School Medical Officers. The average age of the children was 6·6 years.

There is still a great need for the education of the parents in the care of the temporary teeth, and the Dentists are continuing their practice of giving short demonstrations to the parents at the Schools.

The Branch Clinics at Owler Lane and Whitby Road have been used for the treatment of children in the districts surrounding those Schools.

No. of children examined at Elementary Schools	7,060
" " " Clinic	860
No. of letters and appointments sent	6,366
No. of children treated	3,321
No. of appointments kept	4,288
No. of appointments not kept	503
No. of permanent teeth extracted	768
No. of temporary teeth extracted	7,397
No. of fillings	3,761
No. of general anaesthetics	2,101
No. of local anaesthetics	399
No. of silver nitrate dressings	399
No. of other dressings	667

5,000 CHILDREN EXAMINED ARRANGED IN AGE GROUPS.

TEETH.	Age 6.	Age 7.	Age 8.	Age 9.	Age 10.
Perfect	4·4%	2·5%	3·6%	2·5%	8·7%
3 and under decayed ..	24·6%	14·7%	18·1%	30·3%	30 %
4 and over decayed ..	71 %	82·8%	78·3%	67·2%	62·3%
Average number decayed (each child)	7·9	7·5	6·6	5·2	2·9

The School Dentists have also inspected and treated the teeth of children admitted to the Open Air School and to the King Edward VII. Hospital for Cripples, and of the boys attending the Industrial School.

EVENING CLINIC.

(Instituted October 31st, 1916. See p. 11.)

No. of children examined at Clinic .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	521
No. of children treated .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	366
No. of appointments kept .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	448
No. of permanent teeth extracted .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	158
No. of temporary teeth extracted .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	505
No. of fillings .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	92
No. of general anaesthetics .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	246
No. of local anaesthetics .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	77
No. of silver nitrate dressings .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	20
No. of other dressings .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	250

(2) X-RAY AND SKIN DEPARTMENT.

The School Medical Officers have undertaken the whole of this work with the exception of the X-Ray treatment of Ringworm, for which Dr. Skinner has been able to provide a deputy approved by the Committee. The total attendances were 19,731, as compared with 8,660 in the previous year, and the number of cases treated was 1,552 more than in 1915.

The number of cases of Scabies treated has been abnormal. The home treatment of this troublesome complaint is not in the majority of instances efficacious, and a considerable loss of school attendance has been caused in consequence. To deal effectively with this disease removal to a cleansing station is required, where the children can be bathed and their clothes and bedding disinfected

at the same time. Otherwise cure is difficult and relapses are certain. Another considerable factor in the increased number of attendances has been the number of cases of Sore Head in which the home treatment has been neglected.

Condition.	No. of Cases.	No. of Exams.	Condition.	No. of Cases.	No. of Exams.
Ringworm of Head	759	2968	Alopecia	102	365
Ringworm of Body	424	1086	Seborrhœa	89	309
Impetigo	1071	2952	Lupus	8	46
Sore Head	1042	5154	Miscellaneous Dermatoses	226	867
Scabies	1045	5284	No Lesion	280	280
Eczema	83	277	Totals	5163	19731
Psoriasis	34	143			

Ointments and lotions are provided free of charge for all cases in which their use is indicated, and full printed instructions for the cure of the conditions are given to the parents at the same time, unless children are already receiving treatment by other agencies. Cases of sore head require, as a general rule, no medical treatment, and should be readily cured without the aid of ointments.

332 cases of Ringworm of the Head were treated by X-Rays. In five a second exposure was required. The total number of exposures was 1,567, the average for each child being 4.72.

The number of cases in the area known to the School Medical Officer at the end of the year was only 190. A few are treated privately, and the Committee's regulations require that no child who has suffered from Ringworm is to be allowed to return to School unless a certificate has been received from one of their School Medical Officers that the child is cured.

There were in addition 36 cases of Ringworm of the body under treatment at the Clinic.

(3) OPHTHALMIC DEPARTMENT.

Until the return of Mr. Emmerson in November, Mr. Hay undertook all the specialist's duties as in 1915, devoting five sessions each week to the treatment of errors of refraction and other conditions. Subsequently the Ophthalmic Surgeons each attended three times a week, and the School Medical Officer also treats cases of Conjunctivitis and Blepharitis.

Details of the cases treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeons :—

DIAGNOSIS.	Boys.	Girls.	No. of Attendances
Hypermetropia	111 ..	127 ..	494
Myopia	53 ..	71 ..	321
" High	14 ..	25 ..	99
Astigmatism, Hypermetropic	391 ..	581 ..	2,185
" Myopic	47 ..	90 ..	337
" Mixed	66 ..	102 ..	428
Anisometropia	9 ..	28 ..	100
Strabismus, Convergent (Right)	135 ..	112 ..	557
" (Left)	162 ..	159 ..	737
" Alternating Convergent	27 ..	13 ..	91
" Divergent	9 ..	10 ..	39
Conjunctivitis, Acute Catarrhal	38 ..	54 ..	702
" Subacute	11 ..	18 ..	135
" Phlyctenular	11 ..	22 ..	279
" Pustular	1 ..	1 ..	4
Keratitis, Strumous	2 ..	3 ..	92
" Phlyctenular	6 ..	9 ..	157
Ulcer, Marginal Catarrhal, of Cornea	1 ..	3 ..	15
" Phlyctenular, of Cornea	24 ..	35 ..	433
Blepharitis, Marginal	51 ..	62 ..	1,316
" Ulcerosa	2 ..	4 ..	73
Abscess in Upper Lid	1 ..	— ..	1
Aphakia, Operative	1 ..	— ..	2
" Traumatic	— ..	1 ..	4
Cataract, Congenital	2 ..	7 ..	19
Chalazion	— ..	1 ..	1
Coloboma Iridis	3 ..	— ..	4
Cyst	— ..	2 ..	3
Dacryocystitis	2 ..	— ..	2
Disorganised Globe	3 ..	— ..	3
Dyslexia, Congenital	2 ..	1 ..	5
Epiphora	1 ..	1 ..	6
Hordeolum	— ..	1 ..	6
Leucoma Adherens	8 ..	2 ..	37
Membrane, Persistent Vascular	1 ..	— ..	2
Nebulæ, Corneal	21 ..	19 ..	170
Nystagmus, Congenital	12 ..	10 ..	36
Occlusio Pupillæ	— ..	1 ..	3
Opacities, Vitreous	1 ..	1 ..	14
Optic Atrophy	3 ..	1 ..	6
Ptosis	2 ..	4 ..	40
Tinea Marginalis	— ..	1 ..	1
Xerosis Conjunctivæ	3 ..	1 ..	22
No Defect	34 ..	27 ..	132
Total	1,271 ..	1,610 ..	9,113
Exemption Cases	216 ..	— ..	357
	1,487 ..	1,610 ..	9,470
		3,097	

Number of Children attending for Treatment by Nurses .. 1,007
 Total Attendances 28,602

Spectacles.

Arrangements for the provision of spectacles were made as before. 315 pairs of spectacles were provided free of charge. 84 free orders were granted on condition of re-payment, and 614 pairs of spectacles were provided at a specially reduced rate by the firm of Opticians with whom the Committee have a contract.

Re-Examinations.

All cases of Defective Vision are re-examined at varying intervals, and advice is given to the parents of all children leaving School whose sight is defective, as to the need for subsequent re-examination and the importance of suitable occupations.

Exemptions.

216 boys were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeons before Certificates were granted, and in 79 cases glasses were ordered and obtained on their instructions.

(4) AURAL DEPARTMENT.

The Aural Surgeon attends on one evening every week.

In 1916, 523 new cases were admitted, and these, with 239 old cases from the previous year, made up a total of 762. At the end of the year 263 of these were still under treatment. The number of attendees for examination and treatment by the Surgeon amounted to 2,615.

					Discharging Ears.		Deafness without Discharge.
Number of cases	..	..	..	..	457	..	305
Discharged cured	..	..	..	..	173	..	138
,, improved	..	..	..	..	41	..	33
,, incurable	..	..	..	..	—	..	3
,, discontinued to attend	..	..	..	..	23	..	6
,, over age	..	..	..	..	20	..	7
,, transferred to hospital	..	..	..	..	9	..	—
,, operation recommended but refused	..	..	..	..	9	..	17
Deceased	..	..	..	..	—	..	1
Remaining under treatment	..	..	..	..	182	..	81
Recommended for Deaf School	..	..	..	..	—	..	11
No appreciable defect	..	..	..	..	—	..	8
Attendances	..	..	..	..	1893	..	722

In cases where an operation was required, the parents were recommended to take the children to one or other of the hospitals. 279 cases have been operated upon for enlarged tonsils and adenoids. These are followed up and are seen by the Aural Surgeon after the operation when any necessary further treatment is ordered.

The regular treatment by the Nurses has been carried out as before. In addition to the cases under the care of the Aural Surgeon, there are a number of others supervised by the School Medical Officer which also require routine treatment. During the year 828 children have attended 11,510 times, the majority coming twice a week.

**(5) SCHOOL BRANCH OF THE TUBERCULOSIS
DISPENSARY.**

Dr. Rennie's report for the year is :—

The work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary among children is carried on in close co-operation with the School Medical Department. Assistance is given regularly every week by the School Medical Officers at the times set apart at the Dispensary for the examination and treatment of school children, and under the present exceptional conditions extra assistance has been given by the School Medical Staff when required. Some of the work of the Dispensary has, of necessity, been curtailed, but an effort has thus been made to continue the regular treatment and supervision of tuberculous school children so far as the circumstances have permitted.

During the year 1916, 5,281 attendances were made by school children : 2,433 by notified cases and 2,848 by observation cases. These figures include those having tuberculin treatment.

NEW CASES.—85 newly notified cases were examined, 585 "contacts," and 398 suspicious cases.

During the year 16 suspected cases and 53 notified cases were admitted into the sanatoria for observation and treatment.

The number of notifications of tuberculosis in school children received was :—

Pulmonary : Males 104	Non-Pulmonary : Males 84
Females 116	Females 83

20 places at the Day Open-Air School were reserved for children selected by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer. The children selected had signs of infection of the chest glands without marked invasion of the lung tissue, and were therefore in a non-infectious condition. Nineteen were at the end of the year declared able to resume attendance at the ordinary schools.

Attention has been drawn to the need for further open-air school accommodation for such children as there is always a large number of tuberculous children unfit for attendance at the ordinary schools. This method of "school in the open air" comprises both education and treatment, and the cost, compared with that of treatment at a sanatorium, is very low.

SCHOOL NURSES.

The Nursing Staff numbers fourteen. Four Nurses are fully occupied in the Treatment Clinic and receive part-time assistance from other nurses as required.

The duties of the Nurses generally were not altered in 1916, and their work included :—

72,860 examinations of children in school under the cleanliness scheme ;
 5,200 examinations of children in school in investigation of infectious disease, etc. ;
 2,266 visits to the homes of children for neglect ;
 5,401 visits to the homes of children for other reasons—including “following up” ;
 2,928 visits to the schools for various duties.

IN THE TREATMENT CLINIC—

Eye Department—1,007 children attended 28,602 times for treatment.

Ear Department—828 children attended 11,510 times for treatment.

General—2,109 minor dressings were applied.

In 1917, if the selection by the Nurses of children who appear to be ailing and the regular surveys in regard to cleanliness are to be efficient and thorough, more frequent visits to the schools will be necessary. The treatment at the Clinics is making increasing demands on the Nurses' time, and other duties will call for no less attention than before.

WOMEN INSPECTORS.

The Women Inspectors on the staff of the Health Department give most valuable help in dealing with the more serious cases of neglect, especially where there is reason to suspect that the home conditions under which the children are living are not satisfactory.

Mrs. Franks, the Chief Inspector, has kindly furnished the following particulars of the work in 1916 :—

1. Visits with regard to the School Medical Officer's complaints	..	..	..	..	..	92
2. Cleansing notices served <i>re</i> school complaints	..	..				5
3. Visits paid on account of excessive employment of school children out of school hours	..	..	..			6
4. Prosecutions for neglect of children (Section 12 of Children Act, 1908)	..	..	..	..	..	1

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

At the end of 1915 there were 184 children on the registers of the three Day Schools for Mentally Defective children. The accommodation in the schools is 205 places. During the year 95 children were admitted and 58 left, so that at the end of 1916 there were 221 on the rolls.

135 examinations were required of children proposed for admission, with the result that there were :—

Recommended for admission	94
Certified fit to continue at ordinary school	26
Certified unfit for either ordinary or special school	6
Certified fit for Deaf School	1
Certified fit for Residential School	1
Decision deferred	7

A number of other children have been reported to the School Medical Officer, mostly by the School Attendance Officers, and these have also been examined at the Clinic or at their homes.

The Model Arrangements of the Board of Education have been adopted, and during the year 45 cases have been notified by the Local Education Authority to the Statutory Committee of the City Council, the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. Some children leaving the Special Schools who are not notified under the Act have been reported for After-Care to the Sheffield Voluntary Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective. The number of ex-pupils from these schools who are being visited by the members of the Association is now 53, of whom 19 were reported in 1916.

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Day Schools.

The three Day Schools provide places for 167 children. At the end of 1916 there were 218 children on the registers, and a number are not attending any school.

In October the Committee considered a report by the School Medical Officer and decided to open a new temporary school for Physically Defective children in Darnall. Many crippled children living in Attercliffe and Darnall attend the centre at Firth Park, and the new school will therefore also relieve the pressure on the accommodation at that centre.

The proposed school at Darnall will probably be opened in March.

Residential School.

The King Edward VII. Hospital for Crippled Children was opened for the reception of patients in March, 1916, and 80 children

of school age were admitted up to December 31st. Many of the children are able to be taught while in the Hospital, and teachers have been appointed by the Education Committee.

After-Care.

The help of the School Medical Department in the after-care of patients discharged from the Hospital is likely to prove of considerable value. Up to the present only one or two children have left the Hospital.

The Sunbeam Club (Invalid Children's Aid Association) continue the excellent work that they have been doing in the past. Cripples unable to attend school are visited and the after-care of children leaving school or hospital is still one of the outstanding features of the work.

Special Treatment.

The arrangements made by the Committee under which crippled children are helped to obtain, or are provided with, surgical appliances are being maintained, and treatment is granted at the Edgar Allen Institute for suitable cases which are recommended by the School Medical Officer.

17 cases were recommended in 1916 :—

9 Infantile Paralysis.	1 Talipes.
3 Lateral Curvature.	1 Birth Palsy.
2 Hemiplegia.	1 Fractured Elbow.

The Medical Superintendent of the Institute has reported that :—

" Improvement has been noted in every case except one. In this, after a short course of treatment, the Medical Officer came to the conclusion that no further benefit was to be expected, and the child's attendance was therefore discontinued."

BLIND CHILDREN.

Blind children are maintained by the Committee at the Sheffield School for the Blind.

In the School December 31st, 1915	14
" December 31st, 1916	11

Myope School.

65 were on the register at this school in Valley Road. The Ophthalmic Surgeons examine all the scholars as frequently as is required, and are responsible for the admissions to and discharges from the school.

DEAF CHILDREN.

Deaf children are sent to residential schools at Doncaster, Leeds, Derby, or Manchester.

In Residential Schools December 31st, 1915	61
" December 31st, 1916	59

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA.

(Not included this year.)

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

The Day Open-Air School at Whiteley Wood was open for the eighth year from April 3rd until December 15th, 1916.

Teachers.

Miss Boultbee was again appointed Headmistress, and was assisted by Misses Makin, Clark, Mackley, and Traunter.

Nurse.

Nurse Steele again undertook the nursing duties and visited the School three days a week. The attendance of the children is supervised by the Nurse.

Selection of Children.

As in former years, twenty cases selected from the children attending the Tuberculosis Dispensary were admitted under the medical charge of Dr. Rennie.

The total number of children examined for admission was 174, and altogether 129 children were on the registers.

During the Session 22 children left for various reasons.

Transit.

The children were taken to the School in the usual way by motor 'bus every morning and returned on special cars from the Fulwood terminus in the evening.

Condition of the Children on Admission.

Physical defects by reason of which the children were certified for admission to the School :—

		Boys.	Girls.
Anæmia and Malnutrition	.. .. .. .. ..	19 ..	26
Hilum Tuberculosis and Doubtful Tuberculosis of Lung	.. .. .. .. ..	8 ..	16
" Contacts "	.. .. .. .. ..	2 ..	3
Tuberculosis of Glands	.. .. .. .. ..	5 ..	4
" Peritoneum	.. .. .. .. ..	1 ..	1
" Bones	.. .. .. .. ..	1 ..	—
" Kidney	.. .. .. .. ..	— ..	1
Developmental Defects	.. .. .. .. ..	3 ..	—
Enlarged Glands	.. .. .. .. ..	5 ..	5
Rheumatism and Chorea	.. .. .. .. ..	— ..	3
Lateral Curvature	.. .. .. .. ..	1 ..	1
Conjunctivitis and Blepharitis	.. .. .. .. ..	2 ..	2
Old Pneumonia and Pleurisy	.. .. .. .. ..	2 ..	4
Discharging Ears	.. .. .. .. ..	1 ..	1

Meals, Mid-day Rest, Shower Baths, etc.

The usual arrangements for the meals, the rest period of two hours after the mid-day dinner, and the weekly bathing of the children were adhered to.

Physical and Breathing Exercises.

These again received special attention, and the results reflected great credit on the teachers.

Results.

Before the School closed in December, all the children were submitted to a detailed examination:—

Cured or much improved	..	..	..	..	62
Improved	..	..	..	..	35
In same condition	..	..	..	..	3

	Average increase in height.	Average increase in weight.	Average increase in chest measurement.
BOYS ..	4.06 cms. (1.6 ins.)	2.01 kilos. (4.4 lbs.)	1.04 ins.
GIRLS ..	4.6 cms. (1.8 ins.)	2.3 kilos. (5.05 lbs.)	1.18 ins.

The children are weighed every fortnight, always in the morning, and every two months the weights without clothing are recorded.

Improvements and Additions.

Excellent rain screens have been provided for the main hall, dining shed, and open air classroom. These are light and portable, and can readily be fixed in position in wet weather.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The School Medical Officer has medical charge of the staff and boys, and the School Dentist pays a visit each month. Quarterly Medical Reports are furnished to the Home Office, and Dr. Ada Whitlock, H.M. Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, inspected the School in November.

There was no case of infectious disease during the year, but the provision for the isolation of suspicious cases is still inadequate. The School Medical Officer paid 19 visits to the School, and 109 boys were examined on their admission.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The School Medical Officer is also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the City, and has frequent consultations with Dr. Scurfield, the Medical Officer of Health, with regard to the control of infectious disease.

There is a constant interchange of information between the two Departments, and children who are notified as suffering from infectious disease and those who are in contact with them are not allowed to return to School until a "Clearance" Certificate is issued by the Health Department.

The School Medical Officer receives early notification of the prevalence of scarlet fever or diphtheria in a School. In last year's

report mention was made of the exceptional prevalence of diphtheria in one district of the City, particularly affecting one Council School. As cases of diphtheria continued to occur amongst scholars attending this School, the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer agreed upon a joint course of action. The School Medical Officer received each week a list of all children who were known to have been in contact with notified cases of diphtheria, and a swab was taken from the throat of every child on the list before it was allowed to return to School. 445 "contacts" were examined in this way in 1916, and 14 "carriers" were discovered. These were subsequently swabbed at reasonable intervals, and were excluded from School until two consecutive negative results were obtained. This necessitated the taking of some 60 further swabs.

The gradual decline in the cases towards the end of the year led to a modification of this plan, and in future these precautions will only be adopted in the case of children residing in the district mentioned above, with the additional safeguard that children discharged from the City Fever Hospitals whose homes are in that neighbourhood are isolated before they are discharged and swabbed on their return home.

In addition to some half-dozen cases of clinical diphtheria discovered at School or at the Clinic, there were 16 "carriers" found at School by the Doctors when making special visits on account of the occurrence of an exceptional number of cases in a class. These sixteen were dealt with in a manner similar to that outlined above.

Information received either from Head Teachers or from the Health Department has led to visits to 28 Departments for the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease, 13 on account of diphtheria, 2 for scarlet fever, 9 for measles, and 4 for mumps.

One Department was closed for three weeks owing to the prevalence of measles in the district and the serious interference with the working of the School.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

Regulations in respect of the provision of meals for children attending the Public Elementary Schools provide that where the arrangements made are adequate and the working efficient, grant will be paid, and the extent to which the work is co-ordinated with that of the School Medical Service is one of the points that receive due consideration by the Board.

The School Medical Officer is consulted about proposed modifications of the menu. Children discovered by the Teachers to be under-nourished are recommended to the Committee for free meals. The social position of the parents should be regarded as of no importance compared with the need of the child. By the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, Local Education Authorities have power to provide meals for underfed children, *and* to recover the cost of the meals from parents who are in a position to pay it.

Since November, 1915, mid-day meals are supplied to all children whose names are on the free meals' list, and in some cases a breakfast is provided as well. The dinners have been prepared and served at selected Centres where the numbers have been sufficient to justify it. In neighbourhoods where there is no Centre, the children are fed at the nearest School Centre.

MONTHLY RETURN OF DINNERS GIVEN AT THE FEEDING CENTRES.

4 weeks ended	29th January	..	..	..	..	5,418
4	26th February	..	..	..	..	5,873
4	25th March	..	..	..	..	5,810
5	29th April	..	..	..	..	7,129
4	27th May	..	..	..	..	6,168
4	24th June	..	..	..	..	5,710
5	29th July	..	..	..	..	7,199
4	26th August	..	..	..	..	4,479
5	30th September	..	..	..	..	6,083
4	28th October	..	..	..	..	4,886
4	25th November	..	..	..	..	4,774
5	30th December	..	..	..	..	5,373
						68,902

In addition to the above, 2,257 Dinners have been prepared at Schools for children residing at an inconvenient distance from the Centres.

Helpers at Dinner Centres have also been supplied with 5,378 Dinners.

MONTHLY RETURN OF BREAKFASTS GIVEN AT SCHOOL CENTRES.

Period.		No. of Breakfasts.
2 weeks ended	8th January	2,353
6 "	19th February	8,199
4 "	18th March	6,503
4 "	15th April	6,498
5 "	20th May	7,989
5 "	24th June	7,587
4 "	22nd July	6,076
5 "	26th August	6,304
5 "	30th September	6,544
3 "	20th October	4,217
5 "	25th November	7,015
4 "	21st December	5,111
		74,398

PHYSICAL TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS.

The difficulties due to the war have not decreased during the year, but in spite of adverse conditions steady progress is being made. Classes for the instruction of Teachers have been conducted by the Committee's Superintendent, and during the year 147 teachers were registered. ^

Swimming still forms an important part of the Physical Training Scheme, and during the year 1916, no less than 6,169 scholars received instruction. Of these, 1,990 scholars learnt to swim, while 320 children received certificates for swimming 880 yards.

INFANT WELFARE.

The work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is under the control of the Health Committee. Babies and ex-babies requiring treatment for minor ailments are referred by the Medical Officers at the Centre to the School Clinic. Assistance has been given by members of the School Medical Staff during the year when required during the absence of the regular staff engaged on the Baby Consultations.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

In November, 1915, the School Attendance Sub-Committee recommended the Education Committee to allow boys between 13 and 14 years of age to be exempted from school attendance upon certain definite conditions, and they have since recommended that these arrangements be continued, if found necessary.

Under these conditions the School Medical Officer was authorised to arrange for the examination of all boys applying for exemption on these terms.

Up to the end of December, 1915, 902 boys were examined, and a summary of the results was included in the last Report.

During 1916, 2,904 boys have applied for this special exemption, and their medical examination has required a total of 3,038 inspections.

In 9 instances the School Medical Officer has reported that the boy was physically unfit for employment and in 58 cases that permission should only be granted conditionally if the work which it was proposed the boy should undertake were suitable, e.g., light outdoor work or work apart from machinery.

In as many as 392 other cases the certificate of physical fitness was withheld until defects detected at the time of the medical examination had either received the requisite treatment or been otherwise dealt with to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer.

The defects included :—

Eye conditions	236
Ear	29
Dental	45
Skin	18
Chest	11
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	45
Other conditions	8

216 of the above were cases of Defective Vision, and in 79 of them glasses were ordered and obtained on the instructions of the Ophthalmic Surgeons. Nearly all the ear defects were cases of ear discharge. Nine cases of scabies were detected. One case, referred to the Tuberculosis Officer, was found to be suffering from Acute Tuberculosis, and was admitted to a Sanatorium. Some of the cases of Enlarged Tonsils were found to require operation and were treated at one of the hospitals, while others were able to obtain treatment from private practitioners.

These figures show that 459 boys (out of 2,904) were in need of either treatment or advice, or 15 per cent. of those examined. All the examinations were conducted at the School Clinic, and reference was made to the boys' health records whenever possible. In cases where no previous notes were available the time occupied in the inspection was on the average twice as long.

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.

76 Bursars and 112 Pupil Teachers were examined by the School Medical Staff during the year, and the School Medical Officer also examined 7 Attendance Officers on their temporary appointment to the Committee's service.

LECTURES ON SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The School Medical Officer has given a course of twenty lectures and demonstrations at the University Training College, and a number of demonstrations at the Open-Air School and the School Clinic to the students in the Municipal Training College.

ASSISTANCE OF TEACHERS AND ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

The School Medical Staff are conscious of their indebtedness to the teachers and tender their sincere thanks for much invaluable assistance.

The help of the School Attendance Officers is indispensable in many directions, and is also gratefully acknowledged.

THOMAS CHETWOOD.

9th February, 1917.

APPENDIX.

PROSECUTIONS.

Prosecutions have again been instituted by the Education Authority against parents who have neglected to provide medical treatment for their children, or who have, after repeated warnings, failed to keep their children in a clean condition.

Proceedings can be taken in three ways—

- (a) prosecutions under the Attendance Bye-Laws of the Authority,
- (b) prosecutions under Section 12 of the Children Act, 1908, and
- (c) prosecutions under Section 122 of the same Act.

(a) In two cases parents were summoned before the Magistrates for the non-attendance of their children at school. In these cases the non-attendance was due to verminous conditions which were not receiving proper attention, so that the absence from school was unnecessarily prolonged. The Superintendent Visitor conducted the prosecutions, and fines of 30s. (two children) and 15s. were inflicted respectively.

(b) Proceedings have been taken in 49 cases against parents who have neglected their children. In 46 of these, the prosecutions have been in respect of Ophthalmic cases. The proceedings have been conducted by the Town Clerk's Department, and the charge of neglect has been founded on the failure of the parents to provide the necessary treatment prescribed for their children either by the provision of suitable spectacles or by regular and adequate treatment for external eye conditions. In 33 cases fines were inflicted varying from 5s. to £2, in 11 cases the parents were given a further opportunity of complying with the requirements and in 2 cases the parents in Court gave a definite undertaking to provide the required treatment, and the cases were thereupon withdrawn. In one case the parents were charged with neglecting to provide treatment for Discharging Ears, and were fined 10s. In one case, for failure to provide treatment in respect of very bad teeth, which were affecting the child's general health, the parents were also fined 10s. In one case the parents were fined £1 for continuous neglect of a child suffering from Sore Head. The Bench gave instructions to the parents that the conditions were to be promptly attended to

to the satisfaction of the School Medical Officer, and warned them that failure to comply with these orders would be punished by the infliction of much heavier penalties.

(c) No cases were taken during the year under this Section, which involves compulsory cleansing and is much more complicated.

Serious cases of neglect, especially those in which the home conditions are bad, are reported to the Women Inspectors in the Health Department for supervision. In one of these cases proceedings had subsequently to be taken against the parents as repeated warnings were of no avail. The mother was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the father fined £5, and the children were removed to a place of safety.